PLL (Phase-Locked Loop): A closed-loop feedback system that synchronizes output signal with input signal in frequency and phase



→ Frequency locking of input and output ($ω_{in}=ω_{out}$) with constant phase difference (θ)

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VCO (Voltage Controlled Oscillator): Frequency-tunable oscillator
→ Output frequency is a function of control voltage (V_C)





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Electronic Oscillators (Chap. 13 in Razavi 2nd Edition)

- Crystal oscillator (Razavi 13.6): Piezoelectricity

Very accurate and stable oscillation frequency But limited frequency range (typical up to tens of MHz) Used as a master clock in many electronic systems





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- Ring-oscillator: Odd-stage chain of inverters



Voltage control of oscillation frequency

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PD (Phase Detector): Compares phases of input and output signal and converts the phase difference to voltage signal

LPF (Low Pass Filter): Takes an average level of PD's output voltage signal

PD can be realized with a multiplier

$$\sin(\omega_{in}t)\sin(\omega_{out}t+\theta) = \frac{1}{2}\left\{\cos[(\omega_{in}-\omega_{out})t-\theta]-\cos[(\omega_{in}+\omega_{out})t+\theta]\right\}$$



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XOR gate can be used as PD for digital signals









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Applications of PLL: Frequency Synthesis



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Applications of PLL: Frequency Demodulation



Applications of PLL: Clock signal recovery for digital signals



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